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# BATMAN AND SUPERMAN



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POSTER  
and  
EXCITING  
STORIES**

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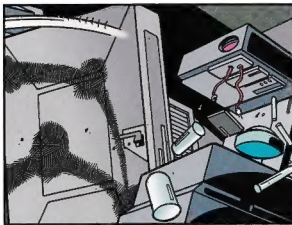


# Secrets and lies

Superman battles to protect the world from natural disasters and the forces of evil. Secretly, he is Clark Kent, a reporter for the *Daily Planet* newspaper.



A crime wave had hit Metropolis. Clark Kent and his fellow reporter Lois Lane were investigating.



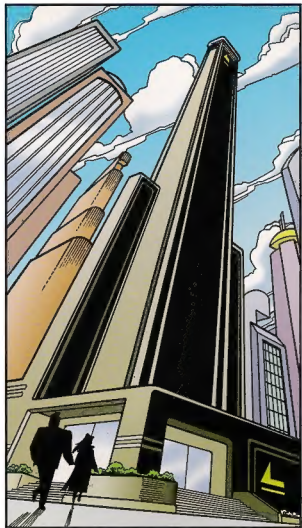
Someone had been breaking into factories and laboratories, and stealing the latest in computer technology.



The intruder had stunned security guards and stolen secrets, but had left no clues and had not yet been caught.



This was big news so Clark and Lois decided to find out who was behind all the trouble.



Clark and Lois went to see Lex Luthor, the richest and most successful businessman in Metropolis.



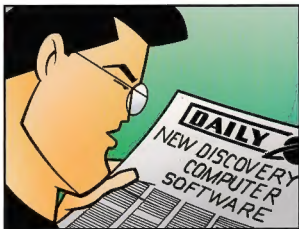
Lex Luthor pretended to be a caring person, but he was really an evil man who wanted to rule Metropolis.



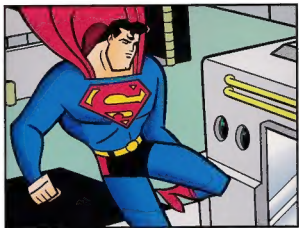
Luthor told the reporters that he wasn't behind the thefts, but Clark and Lois didn't believe him.



Back in their office, the reporters wondered how to get proof of who was behind the burglaries.



But when Clark read the latest headline in the *Daily Planet*, he suddenly had an idea.



Superman knew that the burglar would not be able to resist stealing the new computer software.



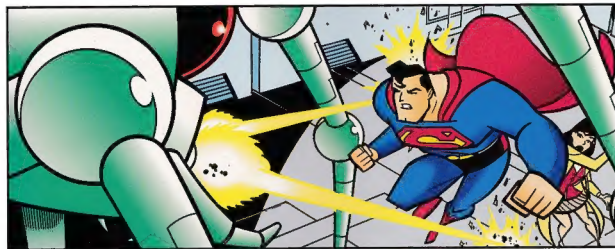
The Man of Steel surprised Lois at the factory. "Miss Lane, what are you doing here?" he asked.



Lois admitted that the newspaper story was a fake. She had set a trap for the burglar.

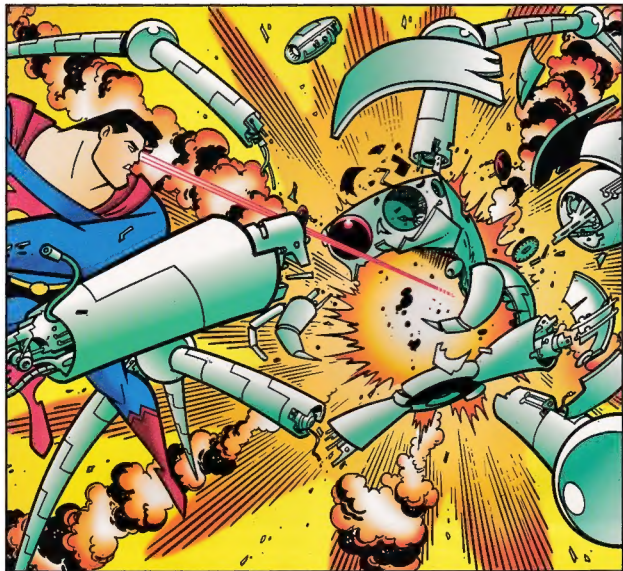


Before Lois could explain any more, they heard something behind them. The intruder had arrived!



A huge robotic spider attacked Superman with lasers and stun blasts, but the Man of Steel used his speed and strength to fight back.

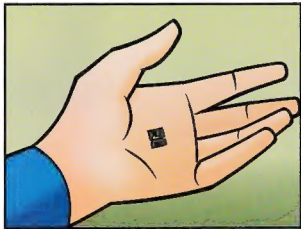




After a hard fight, Superman finally shut down the robot, using his heat vision.



When it was safe, Lois and Superman examined the robot and soon found a clue to its maker.



The robot had a LexCorp chip in it, which must have come from Lex Luthor's factory.



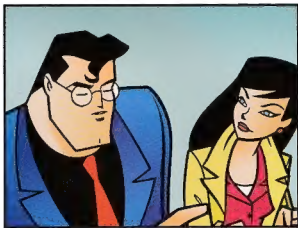
Clark and Lois believed the chip proved that Lex Luthor was the criminal behind all the burglaries.



Luthor was not worried and explained that the chip had been stolen from his factory weeks ago.



"So we can't prove that Lex Luthor was behind the burglaries after all," said Lois, who was very disappointed.



"At least Superman destroyed the robot and stopped all the burglaries," Clark said.



Lex Luthor overheard the reporters as they left his office. With a smile, he muttered to himself, "That's what you think!"



# BATMAN AND SUPERMAN





Find out why Bruce Wayne became Batman in...

# Batman's beginnings

**B**atman saw the lights of the Gotham City Cinema and the last few people who were leaving. Running past it, he stopped at the entrance to the alleyway where a man was lying on the ground and a woman was crying.

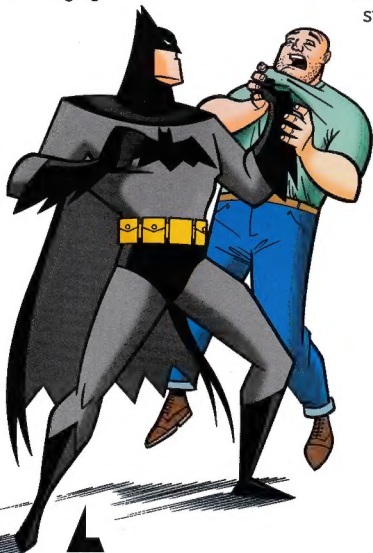
The Dark Knight moved fast, attacking the robber, who had hurt the man and upset the woman so much. He grabbed the criminal and wrestled him to the ground. The woman sobbed over the still body of the man until he woke up. He had been stunned but not badly hurt.

"Thank you, Batman," said the woman, helping the man up. "Thank you."

When Batman returned to the Batcave that night, Alfred noticed that he looked thoughtful. "Is there anything the matter, Master Bruce?" he asked.

"Just old memories," replied the Dark Knight.

Batman changed back into Bruce Wayne and sat down for a cup of cocoa with Alfred. "I helped a couple down by the cinema tonight," he said. "They were being





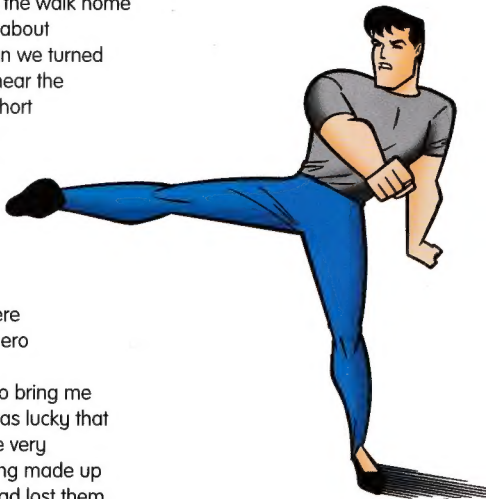
robbed, and it reminded me of a long time ago."

Bruce Wayne didn't often talk about his past and how he became Batman, but tonight he remembered everything so clearly that he wanted to talk about it with Alfred.

"I was just a child, and my parents took me to the cinema for a treat. The film was about a great hero, who protected the poor and fought the criminals. I was so excited on the walk home that I couldn't talk about anything else. Then we turned into an alleyway near the cinema. It was a short cut. And that was where everything went wrong. I never saw my parents again after that night. If we had just been more careful. If there had only been a hero to save them.

"You helped to bring me up, Alfred, and I was lucky that my parents left me very wealthy, but nothing made up for the fact that I had lost them.

"Over the years I grew stronger. I learned all that I could at school and then I learned more. I became fit and strong and my mind became sharp. I learned to find clues and fit them together, so that I could spoil the criminals' plans. I learned to fight with my hands and feet and the few weapons I carry with me. I learned how to survive. When I had learned all that I could, I vowed that I would fight crime



and right wrong wherever I found it. I made a promise never to hurt anyone badly, but to help people and make this city a safer place.

"I learned a lot about criminals. I learned that they were weak, afraid and superstitious. I had to make them fear me. I had to make them believe that I was stronger and cleverer than they were.

"Finally I decided that the best way to fight them was to become something that they would fear. And so I began to wear the mask of the bat and I became Batman.

"I can never bring my parents back, but tonight I saved people just like them from a terrible fate." Bruce finished his



story and turned to Alfred.

"Things might have been very different, Master Bruce," said Alfred. "If your parents had lived, your life would have taken a different course and Gotham City would not have Batman patrolling the streets. You made a good choice. Your parents would have been very proud of you."

"Thank you, Alfred," said Bruce Wayne, "it's kind of you to say so. I hope that you are right."

THE END 